

SENATE BILL 3252

By Ford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 71, relative to child care workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

49-4-942.

(a) A student seeking a child development associate credential, or equivalent higher education credential as designated by the commissioner of human services, and who meets all other eligibility requirements for a grant under § 49-4-921, shall be eligible for and may receive a grant under § 49-4-921 on complying with all other applicable requirements of this part.

(b) A student seeking an associates degree in child development, or its equivalent higher education credential as designated by the commissioner of human services, from an eligible post-secondary institution who meets all other eligibility requirements for a HOPE scholarship under this part, shall be eligible for and may receive a HOPE scholarship on complying with all other applicable requirements of this part.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-502(a)(4)(A)(ii), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(ii) Training for care givers that includes, but is not limited to, two (2) hours of preservice orientation as well as six (6) hours within the first six (6) months of employment, of the training required in the proposed rules from the most recent standards committee, appointed pursuant to chapter 3, part 5 of this title, and specifically

provided in the committee's proposed Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1240-4-3-.07; provided that on and after July 1, 2013, the following shall apply:

(a) Within one (1) year of beginning work as a care giver, a care giver shall have obtained a child development associate credential, or equivalent higher education credential as designated by the commissioner of human services; and

(b) Within one (1) year of complying with subdivision (a), a caregiver shall have a professional development plan approved by the department and shall have commenced a plan of study leading to the timely completion of an associates degree in child development from a postsecondary institution of higher education approved by the department; and

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-502(b)(1), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

The department shall coordinate with the Tennessee higher education commission (THEC) and the Tennessee student assistance corporation (TSAC) in order facilitate eligibility of care givers for financial assistance under title 49, chapter 4, part 9, so that care givers may receive assistance in complying with the costs of training requirements imposed by § 71-3-502(a)(4)(A)(ii).

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.